



**Community Inclusive Trust**

Poplar Farm School  
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17<sup>th</sup> March 2022

To Staff, Parents/Carers and Stakeholders

### **Consultation on a proposal to expand the capacity at Foxfields Academy**

The Community Inclusive Trust (C.I.T), in collaboration with Leicestershire County Council (LCC), is today commencing consultation on the proposal to permanently expand the capacity at Foxfields Academy in Blaby.

The proposal is made in partnership with LCC to ensure a sufficient supply of specialist school places to meet the needs of pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH) within their local community, thus reducing travel time and ensuring appropriate specialist provision can be accessed.

The proposal seeks to expand the physical size of Foxfields Academy by building a new 5 classroom block on the existing site. The development would also include alterations to the parking and access road and the installation of an adjacent MUGA resource. The proposal also seeks to increase the agreed number on roll from 50 to 80. Leicestershire County Council (LCC) have confirmed their financial commitment to fund the entirety of the capital works required.

It is the statutory duty of LCC to ensure that there are sufficient school places to accommodate all pupils of statutory school age in Leicestershire including provision for children with special educational needs and disability (SEND). Leicestershire County Council conducted a widespread public consultation on the High Needs Block Development Plan in late Autumn 2019 to confirm the objectives for the development of further SEND provision within Leicestershire. LCC have confirmed the need for these additional places due to regional demographic pressures, site limitations elsewhere, the distance that pupils would have to travel and parental preference. This is the most appropriate school in this area of Leicestershire for expansion to increase special educational needs provision of this type.

The Trust, in partnership with LCC, feel strongly that this proposal is the best available option to address the projected need for SEND places for young people with SEMH (Social Emotional and Mental Health) needs. It will enable children to attend a suitable school with the specialist provision that they need, whilst reducing the need to place children in schools a considerable distance away from where they live, or in provision not wholly suited to meet their needs. The Trust believes that the proposal is an opportunity to extend and enhance further the already excellent provision in place at Foxfield's Academy to benefit and support more children in the area with SEMH needs, providing them with the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Foxfields Academy has proven highly successful and the demand for specialist places in the area has resulted in the school now reaching full operating capacity. The Local Authority expect growth in the overall number of pupils with SEMH needs requiring specialist provision, based on birth and housing projections between the

#### **A Multi Academy Trust for:**

GANF - Ambergate Sports College | GANF - Sandon School | Isaac Newton Primary School  
SSS - The Garth School | SSS - The Priory School | Boston Endeavour Academy  
Woodlands Academy | Poplar Farm Primary School | Caythorpe Primary School  
Chapel St Leonards Primary School | Greenfields Academy | St Paul's Community Primary School and Nursery | Foxfields Academy | Bowman Academy | Linchfield Community Primary School | Bingham Primary School | LEARN Teaching Centre



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2020 to 2030, to increase by 154 places. The 2023 opening of the new Bowman SEMH Academy in Shepshed will help mitigate but not completely meet the expected growth in SEMH demand hence the further expansion proposed for Foxfields Academy (30 places).

If agreed, the proposed implementation for the increased number on roll would begin from August 2022 and be at full capacity of 80 pupils by August 2023.

It is important that C.I.T gather and consider all views on this proposal prior to deciding on whether to proceed, and would welcome discussions with anyone who may be interested in finding out more or have comments that they wish to be taken into consideration when a decision is made.

### **Have your say**

The consultation window opened today, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022, and will close on Wednesday 13<sup>h</sup> April 2022.

**A face-to-face event is being held on Thursday 31st March 2022 at 3.30pm at Foxfields Academy, Hospital Lane, Blaby, Leicestershire, LE8 4FE. All are welcome.**

If you would like to discuss these proposals further before responding, then please come along to the meeting or contact me using the contact details provided below.

Please visit our website to complete a consultation response form or use this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/3JPUVTh3FG>

Alternatively, you can email direct to [jacki.bartram@citacademies.co.uk](mailto:jacki.bartram@citacademies.co.uk)

Paper responses can be posted to either the school office – Jacki Bartram, Foxfields Academy, Hospital Lane, Blaby, Leicestershire, LE8 4FE, or to Jacki Bartram, C.I.T Academies, Poplar Farm School, Helmsley Road, Grantham, NG31 8XF.

Copies of all documentation relating to this consultation will be posted to both the school and the C.I.T website following the end of the consultation period.

Yours sincerely



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